

SNAP condemns defrocked priest hired at non-profit

Members of the Boston branch of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) gathered outside the Diocese in Providence Tuesday to call for increased community knowledge of priests convicted of sexual misconduct.

Three members of the organization delivered a letter to Bishop Tobin entitled "Trust no more forever," urging him to use his position to "inform the community and to inform organizations working with vulnerable persons about known or suspected predators."

The group's action was sparked by the fact that defrocked priest Daniel Azzarone Jr. is now working for Providence non-profit OpenDoors, an organization that helps formally incarcerated adults transition to life outside of prison. Azzarone was convicted of sexually assaulting minors, formally defrocked, and sentenced to three years in prison in 2005.

SNAP worries that the vulnerable adults involved with OpenDoors will easily become victim to Azzarone's behavior. "Predators need access, so they go to organizations where they're put in positions of trust," said SNAP member Paul Kellen.

A woman at the front desk of the Diocese building said Bishop Tobin was not in, but assured the SNAP members that he would receive their letter. No one from the Diocese was available to comment.

